

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080392
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: AF:REGRIBBIN:SAH
APPROVED BY: AF:WESCHAUFLELE
S/S:M RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080392

NODIS
ALGIERS FOR HABIB

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 6067 ACTION SECSTATE APR 09, 1977

QTE S E C R E T CAIRO 6067

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG MO MARR
SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: INTERVENTION OF MOROCCAN AND EGYPTIAN
FORCES

REF: A) CAIRO 5983/081226Z APR 77 B) STATE 80323

1. DATT MET WITH DMI TODAY AND DMI CONFIRMED THAT EGYPTIAN
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MILITARY DELEGATION WAS ASSESSING SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND WAS NOT
AN AD ANCE PARTY FOR EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT OF TROOPS. EGYPTIAN
DELEGATION IS DUE BACK NEXT FRIDAY (15 APRIL). THE RESULTS OF
THIS MISSION WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY DATA UPON WHICH SENIOR LEVEL
OF GOE CAN BASE GO OR NO-GO DECISION. DMI SAID "WERE ARE NOT SURE
WHAT THE TERRAIN IS LIKE. IF IT IS JUNGLE WE CAN'T SEND OUR TROOPS
BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT TRAINED TO FIGHT IN THAT ENVIRONMENT.

AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL DATT WILL DEBRIEF DMI AND REPORT WHEN EGYPTIAN TEAM RETURNS.

COMMENT: PROSPECT OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH SOVIET BACKED CUBAN TROOPS IN ZAIRE BOTHERED DMI. HE WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT ZAIRE WAS SO PUBLIC WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SUPPORT - TODAY'S CAIRO NEWSPAPERS CLAIM MOROCCAN TROOPS ENTERING ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO DMI THIS PUBLICITY WILL PROVIDE SOVIETS AND CUBANS RATIONALE TO SUPPORT KATANGAN REBELS. THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS THE EGYPTIAN PREFERENCE FOR EXTREME SECRECY IN ALL THINGS MILITARY AND WAS PROBABLY PROPELLED BY HIS CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET BACKED CUBANS.

2. DURING CHAT AT AIRPORT WHILE AWAITING SADAT'S ARRIVAL AFTERNOON APRIL 9 MINISTER WAR GAMASY VOLUNTEERED TO CHARGE THAT YESTERDAY REUTERS HAD INQUIRED ABOUT REPORT FROM KINSHASA THAT EGYPT WOULD BE SENDING TROOPS. GAMASY HAD AUTHORIZED RESPONSE THAT SMALL MILITARY SURVEY TEAM HAD BEEN SENT BUT STORY ABOUT TROOPS WAS WRONG. GAMASY GAVE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT DID NOT PLAN TO SEND TROOPS, THOUGH CHARGE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK HIM ABOUT EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS IN VIEW OF INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B. GAMASY DID NOT ASK FOR OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT. MATTHEWS UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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